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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01013 061306Z

53
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 052967
O 061140Z FEB 75
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7331
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S E C R E T ATHENS 1013

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR GR NATO
SUBJECT: GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND NATO:
PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ATHENS 964 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TOLD ME THAT HE HAS TALKED FURTHER WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ABOUT THE BEST WAY OF ANNOUNCING THE FORTHCOMING BILATERAL TALKS ON MILITARY AND SECURITY MATTERS WHICH WILL OPEN IN ATHENS NEXT MONDAY FEBRUARY 10TH. ACCORDING TO BITSIOS, CARAMANLIS HAS DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY FURTHER REFERENCE TO THESE TALKS DURING CARAMANLIS APPEARANCE IN PARLIAMENT THIS WEEK. INSTEAD, HE PREFERS THAT BITSIOS HIMSELF MAKE THE MATTER KNOWN TO THE PRESS AND THAT BITSIOS DO SO IN A LOW KEY WAY ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING OF THE TALKS.

2. THEREFORE, IN HIS WEEKLY MEETING WITH THE PRESS ON SATURDAY, FEB. 9, BITSIOS WILL PROVIDE THE JOURNALISTS PRESENT WITH AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE GREEK NEWSPAPERS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9. THE STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE PARLIAMENT, GREEK-AMERICAN TALKS WILL START TOMORROW IN ATHENS IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OF MILITARY COOPERATION. END TEXT. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT, TO WHICH THIS
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ANNOUNCEMENT REFERS, WAS A GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT MADE

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BY CARAMANLIS TO THE PARLIAMENT SOME WEEKS AGO IN WHICH
BE INDICATED THAT SUCH TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE
UNDERTAKEN AFTER THE GOG HAD CONCULDED ITS STUDY AND
REVIEW OF THE MATTER.
KUBISCH

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